



Department of Permitting Services
255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850-4166
Phone: 311 in Montgomery County or (240)-777-0311
Fax (240)-777-6262
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices/>



Tree Bill Implementation March 1, 2014

The County Council passed two bills last summer which involve permits and trees. Both take effect on March 1, 2014.

The first bill (Bill #35-12, Tree Canopy Conservation) only involves certain sediment control permits. If you are applying for a sediment control permit to do work on a piece of property that is not covered by a forest conservation plan which has been approved by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission you may have to comply with its provisions. Basically, when applicable, you will have to plant trees and/or pay a fee in lieu of planting. The number of trees required or the amount of applicable fees relates directly to the amount of land disturbance necessary for your construction project.



The second bill (Bill #41-12, Roadside Tree Protection) applies to building permits, sediment control permits, and right of way permits whenever the proposed permitted activity involves the removal, disturbance, or pruning of a tree within the County's right of way. Please note that this also includes any disturbance to the root system, either directly by the construction activity or by parking cars or storing equipment within the root zone. Tree roots quite often spread onto adjoining properties. Such activities will require a right of way permit from the Department. This permit may be combined with other right of way construction activities.

Tree protection plans are required as a part of the permitting process whenever root systems are disturbed or whenever the branches of a tree are pruned. The removal of a roadside tree will typically require the planting of a replacement tree and the payment of a fee. The planting of additional trees within the right of way also requires a permit from the Department. DPS will coordinate County requirements with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources which administers the Maryland Roadside Tree Law.

Fees collected for the Tree Canopy Conservation bill will go into a fund administered by the Department of Environment Protection and will be used to plant trees throughout the County. Fees collected when a roadside tree is removed will go into a fund administered by the Department of Transportation and will be used to plant additional roadside trees.

If you have questions or need additional information please email Rick Brush at Rick.Brush@montgomerycountymd.gov.



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